

**Listing of the Claims**

1. (cancelled)
2. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.
3. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 2 wherein the coating is completely missing at least one location on the surface of the stent.
4. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 3 wherein the coating is interrupted in a grid-like pattern.
- 5, 6. (cancelled)
7. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
- 8-10. (cancelled)
11. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.
- 12, 13. (cancelled)
14. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
- 15, 16. (cancelled)
17. (currently amended) A stent, comprising:

a surface with a non-uniform coating formed thereon,  
wherein the non-uniform coating comprises coating islands on the surface,  
wherein the coating islands are substantially round,  
wherein the spacing of the coating islands, prior to radial expansion, is dependent upon the degree of local stretching during radial expansion, and  
wherein the coating islands are arranged at a greater spacing in regions of the stent surface involving a greater degree of local stretching ~~of the stent surface~~ upon stretching of the stent than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

18. (currently amended) A stent, comprising:

a surface with a non-uniform coating formed thereon,  
wherein the non-uniform coating comprises coating islands on the surface,  
wherein the coating islands are substantially round,  
wherein the spacing of the coating islands, prior to radial expansion, is dependent upon the degree of local stretching during radial expansion, and  
wherein the coating islands are smaller in regions of the stent surface involving a greater degree of local stretching ~~of the stent surface~~ upon stretching of the stent than in regions involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface.

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.

21. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 20 wherein the coating is completely missing in at least one location on the surface of the stent.

22. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 21 wherein the coating is interrupted in a patterned configuration.

23. (previously presented) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

Ser. No. 09/695,562  
Response to Office Action of 8 September 2003  
Atty Docket 117163-4

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24, 25. (cancelled)